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11 November 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Initial Meeting of Politico-Military Group

1. The new Politico-Military Group held its first meeting on 3 November at the State Department. Those present included Phil Farley (Chairman), Spurgeon Keeney (White House), John Ausland and Gene McAuliffe (both State), Fred Weyl and Morton Halperin (both ISA), Admiral Houser (J-5), and Sid Graybeal (ACDA).

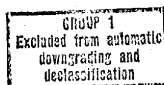
2. After some opening remarks on the reasons for establishing yet another committee on the Washington scene, Phil Farley moved directly into consideration of a policy paper on the question of overseas ABM deployment in friendly foreign countries. The discussion turned specifically on a proposed cable to go to a selected number of embassies overseas to furnish guidance to Ambassadors on how to handle questions relating to the interest of foreigners in acquiring ABM systems of their own.

3. Farley indicated that he thought a final policy paper on this subject ought to go to the Senior Interdepartmental Group at its next meeting on or about 16 November. Halperin pointed out that ISA was interested in getting this paper through the SIG because OSD would be meeting with [REDACTED] some time in December, to discuss [REDACTED] interest in an ABM defense.

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4. As the discussion proceeded, it focused more and more on just what the US attitude toward a friendly country that wanted our assistance to build its own ABM system should be. The OSD representatives would like to have the paper say very firmly that US policy is not to grant any assistance, and to oppose and seek to dissuade countries from acquiring ABM's on their own or from others. The Joint Staff representative preferred looser language along the lines that we would not encourage friendly foreign countries to acquire or develop ABMs, but we would not actually discourage them either. The Chairman, who appeared to side more with OSD, said that he would redraft the proposed cable in light of the discussion and circulate it for consideration prior to another meeting.

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